

1956

*Libby*

**THE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL  
OF MARKET RASEN**

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**ANNUAL REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

**R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.**

and of the

**SANITARY INSPECTOR AND SURVEYOR**

**ARTHUR E. SWEETING**

**Part-time Additional Sanitary Inspector :**

**C. KING**

for the Year

**1955**

**Public Health and General Purposes Committee—**

Councillor G. W. WALSHAM (Chairman), with all the  
Members of the Council.

**Medical Officer of Health—**

R. J. R. MECREDY, B.A., M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O., D.P.H.

**Sanitary Inspector—**

ARTHUR E. SWEETING

**Part-time Additional Sanitary Inspector—**

C. KING

To the Chairman and Members of the MARKET RASEN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Nettleship and Gentlemen,

I wish to submit my Annual Report for the year 1955.

With the exception of one case of measles the Urban District was free from the commoner epidemic diseases. It should be noted that 85·8 % of the children examined in the schools in Market Rasen have been immunised against diphtheria. This is a marked improvement on the position ten years ago.

The causes of death are comparable with those of the country as a whole, with diseases of the heart and circulatory system in the lead and malignant diseases also fairly numerous.

The general health of the children attending school remains good. It seems unlikely that the population of the Urban District will show much change in the future. The tendency seems to have been for new housing to spread on the roads leading into adjoining parishes.

An interesting point to note is that the average number of occupants per house is now 2·7.

The purity of the untreated water from the Tealby springs remains very good and the pressure has improved considerably.

During the previous year the re-opening of private slaughterhouses led to an increase in the volume of work carried out by the Sanitary Inspector. This was met by the part-time employment of Mr. C. King. With the advent of Mr. A. E. Sweeting as Sanitary Inspector it has been possible to review the housing situation, and I have to compliment him for his rapid adjustment, in other respects, to his new post.

Thanks are also due to Mr. King for his assistance in the meat inspection and other duties.

I again wish to express my thanks to you, Sir, and the Members of your Committee, for the courtesy and help I have received in the performance of my duties.

I have the honour to be

Your obedient Servant,

R. J. R. MECREDY,

Medical Officer of Health.

## VITAL AND GENERAL STATISTICS

Land	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	972 acres
Water	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4 acres
Population (Census 1921)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2178
Population (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2048
Population (Census 1951)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2133
Population (Estimated 1955)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2150
Habitable Houses (Census 1931)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	611
Habitable Houses (Estimated 1955)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	791

The rateable value of the Urban District on the 1st April, 1955 was £12,561 and the product of the penny rate was £51 1s. 2d. for the year ending 31st March, 1955.

The considerable increase in the number of housing units since 1931 has led to a great diminution in the overcrowding of houses that existed during the war years. New houses available since 1945 total 117, while 21 houses have been closed.

The average number of occupants for each house is now 2·7.

## VITAL STATISTICS

There has only been one death of an infant this year.

Births and deaths again are virtually equal in numbers.

There has obviously been little natural increase of the population over a number of years. The proportion of elderly people living in the town is high, which accounts for the relatively high number of deaths.

### Extracts from the Vital Statistics for the Year 1955

Total live births	..	..	39	
Illegitimate births	..	..	Nil	
Birth rate per 1,000 estimated resident population (Corrected)	..	..	19·7	For England and Wales 15·0
Total deaths	..	..	36	
Death rate per 1,000 estimated resident population	..	..	10·6	For England and Wales 11·7
Deaths of infants under one year of age	..	..	1	
Deaths from puerperal causes	..	..	Nil	
Stillbirths	..	..	3	
Deaths from malignant neoplasms	..	..	6	
Deaths from disease of the heart and circulatory system	..	..	15	

### Notifiable Diseases

One case of measles and one of pulmonary tuberculosis were notified during the year. In spite of an extremely high incidence of measles in the surrounding Rural Eistrict, only one case occurred in the Urban District.

Whooping Cough was also fairly prevalent outside the Urban area.

41 children were immunised against diphtheria. 7 received a " booster " dose.

20 children were immunised against whooping cough.

20 children were vaccinated against smallpox.

An evaluation of the 232 school children examined in the schools in Market Rasen showed that 85·8% were protected against diphtheria.



## HEALTH AND WELFARE OF SCHOOLCHILDREN

117 children were treated at the School Clinic at Market Rasen during the year. As in previous years the majority of these were suffering from debility, anaemia, substandard nutrition and bronchitic conditions. Two children with impetigo were treated. No other infections or contagious disease was seen. In general, it can be said that the health of the children seen in the schools was good.

Dental caries remains the most important defect.

## CAUSES OF DEATHS

	Males	Females
1. Tuberculosis, Respiratory .. ..	1	Nil
2. Tuberculosis, other forms .. ..	Nil	Nil
3. Syphilitic disease .. ..	Nil	Nil
4. Diphtheria .. ..	Nil	Nil
5. Whooping Cough .. ..	Nil	Nil
6. Meningococcal infections .. ..	Nil	Nil
7. Acute Poliomyelitis .. ..	Nil	Nil
8. Measles .. ..	Nil	Nil
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases ..	Nil	Nil
10. Malignant Neoplasm, stomach .. ..	1	Nil
11. Malignant Neoplasm, lung, bronchus ..	Nil	Nil
12. Malignant Neoplasm, breast .. ..	—	Nil
13. Malignant Neoplasm, uterus .. ..	—	Nil
14. Other Malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	1	4
15. Leukaemia, Aleukaemia .. ..	Nil	Nil
16. Diabetes .. ..	Nil	1
17. Vascular lesions of the nervous system ..	1	2
18. Coronary disease, Angina .. ..	1	Nil
19. Hypertension with Heart Disease ..	Nil	1
20. Other heart disease .. ..	3	5
21. Other circulatory disease .. ..	2	Nil
22. Influenza .. ..	Nil	1
23. Pneumonia .. ..	1	1
24. Bronchitis .. ..	1	Nil
25. Other diseases of respiratory system ..	Nil	Nil
26. Ulcers of the stomach and duodenum ..	Nil	Nil
27. Gastritis, Enteritis and Diarrhoea ..	Nil	Nil
28. Nephritis and Nephrosis .. ..	1	Nil
29. Hyperplasia of prostate .. ..	1	—
30. Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion ..	—	Nil
31. Congenital malformations .. ..	Nil	Nil
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases ..	3	3
33. Motor Vehicle accidents .. ..	Nil	Nil
34. All other accidents .. ..	Nil	Nil
35. Suicide .. ..	1	Nil
36. Homicide and operations of War ..	Nil	Nil
Total Deaths ..	18	18

It should be noted that 15 of the 36 deaths recorded were from diseases of the heart and circulatory system while 6 deaths were recorded from malignant diseases.

## **GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA**

### **1. Mental Illness**

Treatment is arranged in conjunction with the Regional Hospital Board. Supervision and after care is carried out by specially trained workers employed by the County Council.

#### **Mental Defectives**

The County Council through the Regional Hospital Board makes arrangements for the institutional care of mental defectives.

The County Council remains responsible for the care and supervision of mentally defectives in their own homes. This work is carried out by the Health Visitors.

### **2. Laboratory Facilities**

These are provided at the Public Health Laboratory, 8 St. Anne's Road, Lincoln, and at Grimsby and District Hospital. Diphtheria Anti-toxin, Antityphoid Serum and Scarlet Fever Streptococcus Anti-toxin can be supplied from the above Laboratories.

### **3. Ambulance Facilities, Under National Fire Service**

An ambulance can be obtained either through the patient's Doctor or Nurse, or in the event of emergency by asking the Telephone Operator for the Ambulance Station.

## **SUMMARY (for reference) OF NURSING ARRANGEMENTS, HOSPITALS AND OTHER INSTITUTIONS AVAILABLE FOR THE DISTRICT.**

### **Nursing in the Home**

All District Nurses now come under the authority of the Lindsey County Council.

### **Clinics and Treatment Centres**

Treatment and after care of tubercular cases now come under the Regional Hospital Board. Nearest clinic is at Lincoln. School Clinics remain under the charge of the Lindsey County Council.

#### **School Clinic Market Rasen**

Every Tuesday, 10 a.m. — 12 a.m.

#### **Orthopaedic Clinic**

2 p.m. every fourth Tuesday in month.

#### **Dental Clinic**

At Market Rasen for mothers and children.

### **Midwifery and Maternity Services**

Administered by the Lindsey County Council.

### **Health Visitors**

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

## Infant Life Protection

The duties of the above are performed through the Lindsey County Council.

Registration of Nursing Homes is controlled by the Lindsey County Council.

## Home Help Services

Full-time and part-time home helps are now available in the District, arranged for by the Lindsey County Council.

## HOUSING

The number of council houses remains the same as last year, viz., 112 on the Wold View Estate. One privately built house was constructed during the year. Housing development continues on the roads leading into Market Rasen but outside its boundary.

21 houses have been closed in the District since 1945.

During the year improvements were made to some houses to the satisfaction of the Inspector.

## WATER SUPPLIES

There are 522 houses with indoor water installation. 269 are still dependent upon standpipes.

The completion of the reservoir at Hamilton Hill should lessen the unduly high water pressure in the town. This high pressure is probably one of the causes of a considerable waste of water in the area.

19 samples of water examined for bacterial contamination showed 18 satisfactory results. One test was unsatisfactory. A copy of the one chemical analysis made is appended.

## CERTIFICATE OF ANALYSIS

The Sample of Water marked Market Rasen Supply, Caistor R.D.C.

Received from The Caistor Rural District Council, Caistor, Lincs.  
On the 8th July, 1955.

Has been examined with the following results :—

	Parts per million						
pH Value	..	..	..	..	..	..	7.4
Total solids	..	..	..	..	..	..	412.0
Free Ammonia as N	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.018
Albuminoid Ammonia as N	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.016
Nitrogen as Nitrates	..	..	..	..	..	..	2.4
Nitrogen as Nitrites	..	..	..	..	..	..	nil
Chlorides as Cl	..	..	..	..	..	..	27.0
Alkalinity as CaCO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	..	..	..	..	285.0
Oxygen absorbed from n/80 Permanganate in 4 hours	..	..	..	..	..	..	0.130
Calcium as CaO	..	..	..	..	..	..	189.0
Magnesium as MgO	..	..	..	..	..	..	8.2
Sulphates as SO <sub>3</sub>	..	..	..	..	..	..	54.9
Possible Combination of Salts in Solution :							
Calcium Sulphate	..	..	..	..	..	..	9.40
Calcium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	26.90
Magnesium Carbonate	..	..	..	..	..	..	1.72
Sodium Chloride	..	..	..	..	..	..	4.45

This is a somewhat hard water of excellent quality chemically.

J. R. HUNECKE, B.Sc. (Hons.), A.R.I.C.,  
Consulting Analyst.



## SANITATION AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

There were seven conversions made from pail to W.C's during the year. There are still 143 premises dependent on the pail or vault privy.

Conversion proceeds very slowly for an Urban District with a long established sewage system.

The 38 houses which still rely on vault privies undoubtedly cause a nuisance in the hot weather.

A new pump was installed at the Sewage Works during the year and has led to greater reliability in the pumping up of the sewage.

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Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

I beg to submit to you my first Annual Report showing the work carried out by the public health side of the Department.

Whilst some progress was made during the year, there is much yet to be done, particularly in the field of sanitation.

The ready co-operation of most of those with whom I had to deal, viz., property owners, butchers, shopkeepers, builders and others was most helpful and resulted in a good deal of work being carried out without the need of formal action.

I would like to express my sincere thanks to the Chairman and Members of the Council, the Clerk, Medical Officer of Health and Mr. King for the valuable help given and consideration shown during the year.

I am, Mr. Chairman, Lady and Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

ARTHUR E. SWEETING,  
Sanitary Inspector.

## HOUSING

As required by the Ministry of Housing and Local Government, a Housing Survey was carried out during the year in order to ascertain the number of houses in the area which are unfit and should be demolished.

During the survey 11 houses were found which it was considered could not be repaired at a reasonable cost, and it was decided that these should be demolished within the next five years.

By the end of the year three had been demolished and one closed.

It was also noticed that many of the smaller properties have had no maintenance repairs carried out at them for some long time, and it is quite evident that unless several of these receive attention fairly soon they will deteriorate to such an extent as to be incapable of repair at a reasonable cost.

For this reason a house to house survey of the smaller type properties is being carried out and already a number of informal notices have been served on owners requiring them to carry out essential repairs.

## Improvement Grants

It is disappointing to have to report that, despite a good deal of publicity, only one application for an improvement grant was received during the year.

However, continued efforts will be made to encourage property owners to take advantage of the scheme because, it is felt, once a real start is made it will gain momentum.



## **MEAT AND FOODS**

As will be judged by the figures given elsewhere in this report, meat inspection has taken up a considerable amount of time, and I am pleased to be able to report that it was possible to inspect every animal slaughtered.

The five premises where slaughtering is carried on must be considered satisfactory and at three of these considerable improvements were carried out, bringing the premises up to a very good standard.

With regard to the quality of meat sold by the butchers of Market Rasen, this must be described as excellent — it appears the butchers show no interest in anything but the best.

Considering the number of animals slaughtered, it will be seen that very little meat was found to be unfit for food and what was condemned, except in a few instances, were mainly organs or small parts.

I would here like to pay tribute to the butchers and slaughtermen for their excellent co-operation throughout the year. In work of this nature it is to be expected that differences may arise between butchers and officials, but I am pleased to report that there was not one instance of real disagreement during the year.

It is sincerely hoped this happy relationship, which makes the work much easier for everyone, continues in the future.

## **FOOD PREPARING AND MAKING UP PLACES**

In view of the reported outbreaks of food poisoning in various parts of Britain a watchful eye was kept on premises where food is prepared or made up. No serious contravention of the rules of hygiene was discovered and, generally speaking, the premises are satisfactory.

During the year one or two premises were modernised and improved and there is little doubt that this work, apart from providing more hygienic conditions reduces labour costs.

Owners of other premises will be encouraged to do likewise.

## **PRIVY CONVERSIONS**

Despite publicity regarding the financial help available it is regrettable that so few conversions (7) have been carried out during the year.

This number is about the same as for 1953 and 1954, but nevertheless I think that considerably more should be done.

During the coming year the job of trying to persuade owners to take advantage of the scheme will be intensified.

## **RATS AND MICE DESTRUCTION**

A considerable number of properties were surveyed during the year and no major infestations were discovered.

In one or two instances rats in small numbers were found and the work of clearing these was carried out by the Joint Operator at the expense of the occupiers of the properties.

Your refuse tip received treatment and the sewers were test baited, but no rats found.

## STATISTICS

### Housing

No. of new houses erected during year (Private enterprise) .. 1

### Inspection of dwellings

No. of dwellings inspected for housing defects .. .. 439

No. of inspections made for the purpose .. .. 632

### Remedy of defects

No. of premises rendered fit in consequence of informal action .. 112

### Action under Statutory Powers

Proceedings under Sections 9 and 10 of the Housing Act, 1936.. Nil

Proceedings under Public Health Acts .. .. Nil

Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936  
(Closing Order) 1

Proceedings under Sections 12, 25 and 26 of the Housing Act, 1936 Nil

Three unfit empty houses were demolished voluntarily.

### Housing Act, 1936, Part IV

No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year .. .. 1

### Housing Act, 1949

Application for grants received .. .. 1

### Moveable Dwellings

No. licensed .. .. 2

No. of inspections during year .. .. 9

## FOOD PREMISES

### Bakehouses

No. in district .. .. 3

No. of inspections .. .. 36

No. of contraventions .. .. 1

No. of defects remedied .. .. 1

### Ice Cream

No. of premises licensed for the sale of Ice Cream .. .. 14

No. of inspections of premises made .. .. 42

No. of contraventions .. .. Nil

### Meat Products

No. of premises registered for manufacture .. .. 7

No. of inspections of premises made .. .. 84

No. of contraventions found .. .. 3

No. of contraventions remedied .. .. 3

### Milk Distributors

No. of distributors .. .. 4

No. of inspections .. .. 8

### Other food premises

No. of inspections made .. .. 52

No. of contraventions found .. .. 2

# Slaughterhouses

No. on register . . . . . 5

# Shops Act, 1950

No. of shops inspected . . . . . 64

No. of contraventions found . . . . . 1

No. of contraventions remedied . . . . . 1

# Factories and Workshops Act, 1937-1948

No. on register . . . . . 25

No. of inspections made . . . . . 32

No. of contraventions found . . . . . 1

# Meat Inspection

Carcases and Offal inspected  
and condemned in whole or  
in part :

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and lambs	Pigs
Number killed . . . . .	336	25	—	1289	1395
Number inspected . . . . .	336	25	—	1289	1395

All diseases except Tubercu-  
losis and Cysticerci  
Whole carcases condemned — — — 10 8

Carcases of which some part  
os organ was condemnēd 25 1 — 22 49

Percentage of the number  
inspected affected with di-  
sease other than tubercu-  
losis and cysticerci . . . 6.8% 4% — 2.4% 4.8%

Tuberculosis only  
Whole carcases condemned 1 — — — —

Carcases of which some  
part or organ was con-  
demued . . . . . 9 1 — — 33

Percentage of the number  
inspected affected with  
tuberculosis . . . . . 2.7% 4% — — 2.3%

# Other foods condemned

83 lbs. tinned meats }  
87½ lbs. fruit and vegetables } Damaged or blown  
containers.



J. H. EYRE, PRINTER, MARKET RASEN